



# CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE MEETING 7 SUMMARY

June 1, 2020, 6-8pm

## Attendees:

**IBE Facilitators:** Josie Plaut, Hellen Castro

**City of Longmont Staff:** Lisa Knoblauch, Phil Greenwald, Anne Lutz, Blas Hernandez, Francie Jaffe

**City Council:** Marcia Martin

**City of Longmont Residents:** Peter Wood, Karen Dike, Michelle Mendieta, Amy Schmidt (had to leave early)

**Community Partners:** Joni Lynch, Jess Pearson

**Technical Advisors:** Andy Butcher

## I. Welcome & Agenda

Josie Plaut welcomed the participants and reviewed the agenda.

## II. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

## III. Review Round 2 Draft Recommendations

### Land Use and Waste Management clarifications and comments:

- **Extending Agricultural zoning:** Intent of the recommendation is to identify ways to facilitate agricultural zoning within the City through local gardening and food production efforts, as well as opportunities for food retail
  - o Question from CATF member: Is there any reference to community gardens? Answer: It doesn't go as far as identifying areas of land we could use on community gardens.

- Staff comment from Lisa:
  - City Planning staff said that we already allow agricultural zoning and that the City cannot regulate HOAs because they are a separate entity.
- **Commercial and Residential composting:** Aimed to eliminate barriers and make use of the benefits of composting. Promotes subscriptions for people that want to do urban agriculture.
- **Downtown Pay for Parking:** Phased process for instituting paid parking along Main Street.
  - Introduce the idea of having a high-frequency electric shuttle (for people that are not able to walk).
  - The aim is to incentivize people to not drive as much, and instead, use a bicycle and walk. This will also open parking up for the people that have don't have another choice but to drive.

#### **Education and Outreach clarifications and comments:**

- **Comprehensive Workforce Development:** no comments.
- **Big Picture Climate Lecture Series:** Recently received a grant from CU Boulder, Humanities Program (\$5,000) to run this program in 2021. Implementation has been pushed due to COVID, working on an alternative in case the museum auditorium can't be used.
- **Newspaper Article Series:** Put together a series of short articles aimed at the public, localized issues of climate change for the local community (locally relevant).
  - Question from CATF member: Can it be geared to be digital too? Answer: Yes. Will include that in final revisions.
- **Longmont Museum Teaching Exhibit:** no comments
- **Community Sustainability Liaison Program:** no comments

#### **Resilience and Adaptation clarifications and comments:**

- **Public Health:** Warming climate means public health impacts as a result of more forest fires and lower air quality. Focus on low-income residents and people experiencing homelessness which are most affected by extreme heat. There could also be an increase in diseases that we are not resistant to.
- **Water Conservation:** We are likely to have more flooding and drought due to climate change. It is important to reduce indoor and outdoor water use through

different education policies and resources. Create ordinances to promote xeriscaping and low water drought-resistant gardening, including for HOAs

- Staff comment from Francie:
  - There were significant concerns from City staff on this recommendation that have not been addressed. Primarily the concerns were around the very aggressive goal stated in the recommendation without the acknowledgement of the high expense to implement the recommendation and how it would significantly change City landscapes.
  - CATF subgroup will work with Francie to revise this recommendation to address these concerns.
- **Flooding Mitigation and Preparedness Education:** Educational campaign.

## **Voting:**

Present members of the CATF voted on advancing recommendations to the final report. Staff will follow up with CATF members that were not present to submit votes via email.

### **Extending Agricultural zoning:**

Approve with changes (regarding zoning and HOAs, rewrite with a focus on marketing and marketability): 2

Approve as written: 9

### **Commercial and Residential composting:**

Approve as written: 11

### **Downtown Pay for Parking:**

Approve with changes: 2 (Add concept of a shuttle to help people who don't want to walk or bike downtown, deeper dive into potential negative impacts from an equity perspective)

Approve as written: 9

### **Comprehensive Workforce Development.**

Approve as written: 11

### **Big Picture Climate Lecture Series**

Approve with changes: 1 (Not sure how it reaches out to the entire public, should be more inclusive of different views)

Approve as written: 10

### **Newspaper Article Series**

Approve with changes: 2 (not specify the outlet, mention articles online)

Approve as written: 9

### **Longmont Museum Teaching Exhibit:**

Approve as written: 11

### **Community Sustainability Liaison Program:**

Approve as written: 11

### **Public Health:**

Approve as written: 11

### **Water Conservation:**

Do Not Approve: 2

Approve with changes: 5

Approve as written: 3

Based on the high need to adjust this recommendation and address staff comments, Francie Jaffe sent an e-mail to Karen Dike and Lynette McClain to review staff comments and finalize and update the recommendation by Wednesday June 3.

### **Flooding Mitigation and Preparedness Education**

Approve with changes: 1 (More of a comment: We do a lot of this already, consider combining with community liaison recommendation.)

Approve as written: 10

## **IV. Climate Action Task Force Governance**

Lisa Knoblauch started the governance conversation by explaining the existing advisory boards and groups that relate to sustainability:

- 1) Sustainability Advisory Board: meets monthly and advises City Council on Sustainability work.
- 2) Longmont Sustainability Coalition: informal volunteer group, meets quarterly, shares updates on sustainability efforts both by the City and by local groups.

Josie presented three recommendations of how the Climate Action Task Force could continue moving forward:



1. Integrate oversight of climate action recommendation into the scope of the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
2. Form a formal coalition that is separate from the SAB to focus specifically on climate action recommendations (there are significant challenges and charter implications with this approach that would need to be addressed)

AND/OR

3. Form a volunteer/informal technical advisory group to support the implementation of specific recommendations
  - a. Would be open to anyone in the community

**Discussion:**

Council member Martin expressed concern that we had not yet defined the governance of the Climate Action report itself and the definition of governance. So without that definition we are unable to decide on the role of the Climate Action Task Force members. And because there is going to be a budget that will be cut by 25%, if we want progress in the upcoming year on any climate action work we are going to have to change the model for implementation and not just the governance. We need to be looking ahead and not just put this in governance mode where someone makes slow progress on recommendations, but rather talk about a next phase of the emergency. At minimum we need to understand what governance actually does and second, figure out how to get actual boots on the ground. If we mean this, we need to figure out how to get it done with no money.

Lisa confirmed that the boards that are in existence are Advisory Boards, every once in a while there are volunteers that help with events, but that is the extent that they go in terms of implementation. She also commented that internally staff is looking at how we are prioritizing climate action recommendations that can plug into potential stimulus funds that may be coming to support COVID recovery.

Karen expressed concern about the need to treat this as an emergency, not something that gets put off because of budget cuts or because there is focus on something else. We need to be in a place for governance where there is accountability to act on it rapidly. She explained that she did not want the Climate Action report to be buried within the Sustainability Plan and that she was concerned about the staff capacity to continue the Climate Action work. There is a need to develop strong plans for implementation.

Anne commented that when City Council hears these recommendations they need to say that they like recommendations like commercial benchmarking and direct staff to get it done by a certain timeframe. LPC has staff working on home efficiency, another on

building energy audits, retrocommissioning, and LPC will continue working on those items with or without COVID.

The group did not come to a consensus on the governance decision or next steps. Lisa, Karen, Marcia, Phil, and Anne all volunteered to have a conversation between now and the next meeting to discuss governance and propose a solution at the last Climate Action Task Force meeting.

## **V. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

### **Co-Presenting with the JTP Committee**

Francie explained that the last JTP Committee meeting is on June 4th and that there is a possibility that the JTP Committee would be interested in presenting their specific recommendations about how to integrate equity into climate action to City Council at one of the two CATF presentations. Some CATF members expressed concern that the JTP Committee recommendations were a critique of their work. Francie clarified they have developed their recommendations from their own voices and experiences and it's not a critique of the CATF recommendations, but rather how to strengthen recommendations by viewing them through an equity lens

At this point in the meeting, there were only about four to five CATF members present. A follow-up e-mail was sent after the meeting to all members of the CATF further explaining the proposal for the JTP Committee to decide how they would like to present their recommendations to City Council.

### **Next Steps**

- At the end of this week we will send the final draft of the report and presentations to the CATF
- 6/11: Final presentation of round 1 and 2 due to staff
- 6/11: final meeting
- 6/14: Final report to Staff
- 6/18: Final report to City Council
- 6/30: First presentation to City Council
- 7/7: Second presentation to City Council